INTERVIEW WITH MR. CHARLES LANE

February 4, 1977

Conducted by:

Dr. James L. Dodson

--and--

Miss Paula Boyer

Dodson: Mr. Lane, I wonder if you would give us your full name and tell us how long you've lived in the valley?

Lane: My name is Charles E. Lane, Charles Ernest Lane and I've lived in the valley ever since 1910. I believe it's about sixty-six years now?

Dodson: Hhm. You were telling us rather interesting information about the founding of Van Nuys. I wonder if you'd repeat that so we can put it on tape, as to who the founder was and how it came to be founded and so on.

Lane: Well, the founder's name is H.J. Whitley and he was president of the Suburban Homes Company which threw open 47,000 acres here, in this part of the valley.. the northern part of the San Fernando Valley. And the town, the northern part, was called Owensmouth at that time it's called Canoga Park now. Then they had Reseda which is more in the center of the valley, and that is still Reseda, and then they had Van Nuys. So those three townsites were established in 1911. The founding of Van Nuys was 1911.. that's February the 22nd, 1911 that Van Nuys was founded.

Dodson: Can you tell us how it happened that uh, Mr. Lane, Mr. W.P. Whitsett got so much credit for the founding of Van Nuys? I believe you told us that you thought Mr. Whitley was really the founder rather than Mr. Whitsett?

Lane: Well that is right. Mr. Whitsett was a very good promoter. And he was the head of the office, the real estate office, he was the head salesman er.. manager of the real estate office in 1911. And that's

one reason, I guess, that he is known as the founder of Van Nuys because he did do a lot for Van Nuys after it was established here. But he was not, of course, the original founder.

Dodson: And Van Nuys was found on the land that originally belonged to the Lankershim-Van Nuys Interest, isn't that correct?

Lane: That's correct, that's right... it was.

Dodson: And I think that you've told us that those were wheat fields to begin with.

Lane: Yes. The Los Angeles Milling Company owned those, if I remember right, yes... wheat fields at that time and we moved here in 1910, the whole valley looked like it was a big wheat field.

Dodson: That was the way it appeared to you, then, when you came in 1910?

Lane: That's right. That's the way it was.

Dodson: Can you describe what the rest of the valley looked like? How it impressed you when you came here for the first time?

Lane: Well, it impressed me.. uh, it was new. It was surrounded by mountains. I thought it was a beautiful valley. Only thing, there wasn't very many natural trees, there were some natural trees in the very northern part of the valley.. some oak trees that are still standing but they uh.. the trees that's now of course had to be, had to be planted

by farmers and different ones that established their homes here.

Dodson: And in the northern part of the valley I guess there were olive groves and that sort of thing, were there not? Or did you visit the northern part of the valley very much?

Lane: Well, the northern part of the valley I don't remember very much. There was some olive groves but it really.. it was really out of the San Fernando valley. You might say it was toward San Fernando. There was one olive grove there that they say is comprised of a thousand acres at one time... of olives.. a big olive grove!

Dodson:
Boyer: What was...

Boyer: Oops, I'm sorry. What was the weather like in the valley when you came down here?

Lane: Well the weather was.. I remember one winter, I think it was.. now we came here in 1910. And between 1910 and 1911 we had a very dry year. We didn't have any rain until the fourth.. I think it was until the fourth day of March in 1911. 1910 was a very dry year. It was on record, I think, it was one of the dryest year. And in 1910.. 1911, we had only three or four inches and a very dry spring and summer.

Dodson: What effect did this have on the farmers in the valley?

Lane: Well, they at that time, in 1910 and 1911 the farmers

didn't do very much. I know we were in the orchard business at that time. And we put in, I remember, 10 or 15 acres of ...?... trees, peaches and apricots and we had to do this in February. And they should be planted in February, so we had to dig holes in the dry ground and plant the trees. And we had a well that we hauled water from our well and put about ten gallons of water on each tree as we planted them.

Dodson: How often did you have to water them then after that?

Lane: We only watered just that one time, and then a few weeks after that we had a rain. We planted them in February, 1911 and in March 4th we had about three to four inches of rain in that month. So by cultivation, we had moisture. We had no irrigation at that time, here.

Dodson: That was before the water came in from the Owens valley?

Lane: Uh hmm. Yeah, before the aqueduct water came in, yes.

Dodson: I see. So you depended entirely on natural rainfall?

Lane: Yes. The first few years, yes we did. Well some, as we did.. we had a 200 foot well and we had a 5000 gallons water tank on our 10 acres place here on Kester Avenue and that supplied the water for most of the 10 acres. To irrigate some too, and for domestic purposes, we had a 5000 gallon tank and a big pump that had a motor on it, a big combustible motor. And we pumped the water and kept that

filled and we were able to irrigate, not all of it, but the biggest part of the 10 acres that we had.

Dodson: How was your well... how did you pump your water out? What sort of power did you have?

Lane: Well, we had a combustible motor on that pump. This well was a.. had 12 inches casing going down.. the well was 210 feet and the water came up within 50 feet of the top so we didn't have to go clear down to the bottom of the well. We went down until we struck water real well and had a pipe there. And then pump it up, from there, up to the 5000 gallon water tank that we had. And the.. we could very easily keep it filled up that way, we had a pretty big motor.. combustible motor.

Dodson: There was no use of windmills here in the valley as was true in the Midwest?

Lane: Well, there was some windmills but not so many. Most people here had motors.

Dodson: I see.

Lane: And because they needed a lot of water here. The first few years we didn't have the aqueduct water. It was two or three... about three years, I think, before we had the water.

Dodson: I was a little interested in the windmill idea because you might have read that some professor at Cal Tech had just suggested that one of the ways that we could produce power is to erect great windmills. Of course much larger than any farm would have had.

Lane: Yeah.

Dodson: But I wondered whether there was much use of them in the past, here in the valley, for pumping water.

Lane: To my recollections they didn't have very many windmills here, to pump water, very few.

Dodson: I see.

Boyer: What were the roads like when you came out here?

Lane: Well, the roads were surveyed and really, they weren't paved at first, they were just formed. You know, they would just form the roads so it was higher in the center so the water would run off. But the roads weren't paved, all in that time, they were just dirt roads.. you might say, throughout the valley here... for quite a number of years.

Boyer: Where do the people on the valley here go to get.. like supplies or if they had to get food or clothing, where did they go?

Lane: Well in this part of the valley here in Van Nuys, 1910, we had to go to what's now called North Hollywood was Lankershim. And many times I used to, after doing a day's work, take a sack on my back and go down the railroad tracks to uhm, Lankershim which was about 6 miles and 6 miles back, and carry about 25 pounds of groceries.

Dodson: You mean you carried that yourself?

Lane: Yes, uh hmm, yeah.

Boyer: That's a long way to carry that.

Lane: Once a week.

Dodson: Where did your father come from before he came here, Mr. Lane?

Lane: Well my father, he was originally from Bangor, Maine and that was his birth place. And he came out here in the 80's about 1882 or 1883 and landed in Portland. And then he adverse [?] it down to San Francisco and married my mother there in San Francisco. And then he moved to Los Angeles and he was building contractor there in the 80's. He had 300 men working for him in the 80's. And he uh... during that time, it was shortly after that about.. just before 1900 that they call it the boom, there was a big boom in Los Angeles at that time. But the boom busted, that's what they called it, the boom busted, yeah.

[laughter]

And so everyone was broke and my father went broke, too, and he never became a big contractor after that. He was a big contractor at one time, yeah. Yeah, I can tell you some stories about that.

Dodson: Did he saved enough money, then, to come into the valley and invest in ...?... ?

Lane: No, he went from there up to Fresno. We were in Fresno for a while. And my father worked for a mill there called Madeiras Plating Mill [sp ?]. And he saved enough money up there to fly down to Long Beach, we were down in Long Beach in 1900. And then

we moved to Hemet and after that we moved up to Los Altos in Santa Clara valley. And from there, my father moved down here and bought 10 acres on Kester Avenue on June, 1910. So we've been living all over in different parts of the state.

Dodson: Sometimes I'm interested in finding out just why a person happen to move to the valley. Do you know how he happened to pick out the valley when he was in northern California?

Lane: Well he heard about it when he was up there. There were advertising something about San Fernando Valley. And he came down here to see for himself and get first-hand information. And that's the reason.. and then when he did so, he said that... he thought that this valley was going to be thickly populated with people at some time. He knew, he can tell that even back back there in 1910, that this valley was going to grow. And we see it.. I've seen it grow from a nothing to what it is today.

Dodson: Of course both Isaac Lankershim and Isaac Newton Van Nuys came from the north. Lankershim came first and apparently, he too saw the possibilities of the valley.

Lane: That's right, he did, yes.

Dodson: You didn't go to school here in this area then, did you?

Lane: No, I was through schooling at that time. I was 22 years old when they came here to the valley, yeah.

Dodson: You were in the north but not in California when the San Francisco earthquake took place, did you tell us?

Lane: I was up in San Francisco about 10 days after the earthquake. We were up in Los Altos and we had the.. the velocity of the earthquake was just about the same. We were just a few miles from Palo Alto and we suffered just about the same earthquake, you might say, but some damage too. But of course not like San Francisco but we were pretty badly shaken up. It seemed to me like.. although the earthquake was only they say eighteen second duration, it seemed to me like eighteen minutes! That long, it was terrible. I'll never forget that one.

Dodson: No, I imagine not. Of course here you were too far south to get the full blast of the Sylmar quake. I just wondered how they might compare it to a person who've felt both of them, as to which one to be the worse. But you wouldn't really have a basis for comparison?

Lane: No. Not in... no, not in that way, no.

Boyer: This is't about the valley, but you were in San Francisco 10 days after the earthquake?

Lane: Yeah, uh hmm.

Boyer: Can you remember what it was like there?

Dodson: Yes, I think this would be interesting.

Boyer: ...?... recollections.

Dodson: Right, I think this would be interesting even though it isn't valley history..

Lane: Well..

Dodson: ... to hear your recollections of that earthquake.

Lane: Yeah, we went up there...

Dodson: ...?...

Lane: Yes, make yourself comfortable.

Dodson: Yes, I think I'll just take it off and put it on the chair.

Lane: Well, the time of the earthquake in 1906 I was 18 years old. And I rode a bicycle up from Los Altos to San Francisco and there was half a dozen boys from my neighborhood that went up there. And of course there was militia law there at that time, they didn't want anybody in or out, but we sneaked in and we were caught by the militia and ordered out right away. And we kind of falsified a little bit about it because we weren't supposed to be there. And they asked us where we lived and one of the boys spoke up and gave his address. And the rest of us, when they asked where we lived well we said we're neighbors of his and we got by with that.

[laughter]

But we were ordered to go on home, where ever we lived.. so we got out pretty fast. But we did get

an opportunity to see a lot of the damage that was done. There was.. in the streets, some of the main streets, were big crevasses in the street that you could look down and you couldn't see the bottom. And some of them were 6 or 8 or 10 feet wide at the top and a person, if they get in there they probably would've never get out. And of course they would... they were dynamiting a lot of homes and even a whole block, to keep these fires from spreading. You see, it wasn't so much the earthquake damage as it was the fire damage after the earthquake hits... so many buildings caught fire.

Dodson: Were there still any fires going on when you were there?

Lane: Oh yeah, there were fires going on when we were there, uh hmm. Yeah, oh yeah. And there was shocks for a whole week or more, a week or ten days, there were several shocks a day after the earthquake.. after the original earthquake, the first.

Dodson: Well that's very interesting. This is the first eyewitness account we've had of anything relating to the San Francisco earthquake.

Lane: Oh, is that so?

Dodson: Now, we have talked to some people who were here in this valley in 1906. And they told us they could feel it down here.

Lane: Yeah?

Dodson: That the shock was strong enough that they could feel

it clear down here in the valley. But so far we haven't talked to anyone who was actually in northern California at the time.

Lane: Uh hmm.

Dodson: Paula, do you have any questions about the earthquake?

Boyer: ...?... [inaudible]

Dodson: You were about 18 then at that time, at the time of the quake.

Lane: Yes, that's right.

Dodson: And then how old were you when you came back to the valley to live?

Lane: I came back here in this valley in 1910. I came here in September, 1910. I was 22 years old at that time.

Dodson: I see. On our outline we had some questions about teenagers but you were a little out of that range when you...

Lane: A little bit.

Dodson: ... came to the valley.

Lane: Yeah. I should say.

Dodson: Maybe you could tell us something about the social life of the valley at the time. What did you do for amusements, when you were in your twenties?

Lane: Well, we had.. here, before there was any picture shows or anything going on here, we had to entertain ourselves. And we would meet in different homes and socialize and uh, play cards. And a lot of the homes had pianos where we could sing and play, the young people could, you know. Then after a while, why of course we had some buildings here, some buildings so there was some stores and so forth where we could have a chance to uh, to have a larger crowd. And we had dances and socials and so forth. And the first church that I remember of in Van Nuys was the First Presbyterian Church, here.. right over here on Friar Street. Of course they have rebuilt that so it's quite a church affair now compared to what it was originally, but that was the first church in Van Nuys. And most everyone, all, everyone that wanted to go to church, naturally would go to that church. It was the only one in Van Nuys.

Dodson: And I imagine there were social affairs connected to the young people in the church, weren't there?

Lane: Oh yes, yeah. Ice cream socials and so forth and get togethers, uh hmm.

Dodson: Since you've mentioned houses, that raises an interesting question. We're hearing about energy shortages now, how did you heat your houses and light them at that time?

Lane: Well, we didn't have any electricity at that time at all. And for lights we had oil lamps and for heat a fireplace and a cook stove. And we had a stove that would... uh, what would you.. with what you call... I forget now what the name of it is..

regular... I forget now what the name of it is... but it was a stove that they... I forget what's it called, that stove... that they used to have in grocery stores. We had some of...

Dodson: Round, pot-bellied stove?

Lane: Pot-bellied stove! that's what I was trying to say. Potbellied stove, yeah. We had those and we had a fireplace, too, and a big wood stove.

Dodson: What did you burn in your stove?

Lane: Well we burned wood. We burned mostly wood in the stove, yeah.

Dodson: That is coal which was burned further east was not found in California at that time?

Lane: No, it wasn't available in the valley at that time, it was all wood. I don't remember any store, any uh..

Dodson: Coal.

Lane: ... coal at all here. No, not at that time, no.

Dodson: How long was it before other types of energy were brought in? Like fossil fuels, like oil and gas?

Lane: Well about.. I think about uh, about 1912 or 13 they started to bring them in. I know when we were running the colder ranch and dairy, we didn't have any ice. There was no provision for noone to make ice, there was no provision... we didn't have any ice out here. We didn't have any refrigeration

and still we kept milk and eggs. And we kept milk two or three days without it getting sour.

Dodson: Did you have any problem in the summer with that, when the temperature get above 100°?

Lane: Well, we did have a little trouble with that but we had coolers. Coolers were with burlap.. burlap soaked in water from up above and the air blowing through that would keep it cool. We had, we kept the milk down to a... and then the cold water we had from our well, we had run through pipes and pour the milk over those pipes. And that cooled the milk down. You take warm milk and run it over these pipes, and you could get a glass of cool milk from that, at that time. But there was no ice. We were there 10 years, on this farm, and we never had any ice or no refrigeration.

Dodson: Can you tell us how those burlap sacks were arranged, that you pour the water on? Were they up on the roof of the building or how was it done?

Lane: Well we had receptacles for them and in the receptacles there was water. And this burlap was uh, in the.. lying in the water, rolled up so that a certain amount of it soaked up the moisture clear down to the bottom, we had enough so that it did work and it worked fine. The evaporation, you see, of the water from the burlap is what kept it cool and it cools it down.

Dodson: So it was quite a time then before you had any ice?

Lane: Yeah, it was quite a number of years before I guess

it was three to four years before we had any ice here.

Dodson: Do you remember when electricity came in to the valley?

Lane: I can't remember quite exactly what year, but I think it was about '13... 1913 or 1914 before we had anything like that here. You see, we were annexed to Los Angeles when the aqueduct water came in. I think that was about, the aqueduct water, about 1913, I believe.

Dodson: Yes.

Lane: Yeah, uh hmm. And then we found out that we could irrigate cheaper, with the aqueduct water, than we could pump it. And city of Los Angeles had the water rights, so they kept our wells. After that we couldn't pump up any water.

Dodson: That's right. Even though the well was on your land, you didn't have the water rights to take water out of it.

Lane: No.

Dodson: I know that many of the western states have very strict laws on water rights. You could have a stream going through your land and you still couldn't take any water out of it, necessarily, if you didn't have the water rights...

Lane: That's right.

Dodson: ... on that stream. Well I didn't know for sure that that applied in California, that that same type of law existed here.

Lane: Yeah.

Dodson: Would that be true now that if a person did have a well on his land, he would not be allowed to take water out of it?

Lane: That's right because that well that we had... my voice is getting kind of...

Dodson: Would you like to stop for a minute?

Lane: Yeah, yeah.

[tape stopped]

Boyer: I was just wondering, did your father have to sell his water rights or did they just take the water rights automatically....?....

Lane: Well, they had the water rights and they just... they've had the right to kept the well and not permit the owner to... the owner couldn't.. the owner of the land couldn't take water our of his own well.

Boyer: Did they come out and notify you or did they come around and inspect the wells or ?

Lane: They came out and measured it... and they.. they'd measure the well, every month they'd come out and measure the water to see how much water was in the

well, to make reports.

Dodson: For goodness sakes, you couldn't take any out, then!

Lane: No. They had it capped with a big wooden cap. And then they had to drill a hole through the wood. And then they would measure it with a line, some kind of line down there... or two lines or something, and measure the depth of the water... or how far it was to water. They kept track of it every month.

Dodson: You remember the coming in of the water? Did you go out and see the ceremony when the water came in for the first time over the aqueduct?

Lane: No we didn't. We didn't see that. But we saw the effects it had on... as soon as the aqueduct water was available here. Why, the farmers started to use the water and shortly after that they started in to uh, to make cement pipes for the farmers to use for their irrigating.

Dodson: What effect did the annexation to Los Angeles have on your taxes, do you remember? Was there any great change or not?

Lane: Yeah, there was a.. not a radical change immediately but gradually there was a change. The taxes started to go up at that time, I remember.

Dodson: Were you conscious of civic improvements rapidly after that? What change did it make in the valley? Other than the water itself.

Lane: Well it didn't.. notice any radical change right

away or improvements at once, they were rather slow at that time. One thing when Van Nuys was founded, there was no liquor or any kind to be sold... in the city of Van Nuys, before it was annexed to Los Angeles. But as soon as we were voted in and annexed ourself to Los Angeles, then we were part of the city of Los Angeles as we are now, and they brought the liquor in it wasn't many months before they had plenty of liquor here in these grocery stores and the ...?... which sells the liquor which was... there was a provision they had that they wouldn't sell any liquor here in Van Nuys, back then. When we were annexed to Los Angeles, they took advantage of that right away, that was one of the first changes.. noise!

[laughter]

Dodson: Now that was a change nobody told us before so I'm anxious to.. glad to get that on record!

Lane: Hhmm... ...?... thought about that..

Dodson: Can you think of any other changes that occured as a result of the annexation?

Lane: Hhmm... I don't know, that was one that I thought of, the state.

Dodson: Where there changes in the direction of putting in sewers and that sort of thing, would you say?

Lane: Yes there was. There was uh... I forget... let's see, it was about... I don't know exactly what year but they did make it mandatory. First we had just

cesspools here. Then they started in, after we were annexed to the city of Los Angeles and became part of the city, we had to put in sewers here and the whole valley. Finally the whole valley had to have sewers, they wouldn't allow cesspools any more. There was a deadline on that. I don't know just what year that was but.. that's what happened.

Dodson: I see. Do you remember the coming of the first World War into the valley and what changes it might have made?

Lane: Yes, I remember that time. Of course I guess it didn't make some changes in people's lives as more than anything else because I didn't get in.. I was I wasn't drafted. In a way I was called up for examination and waiting call. And I didn't have to go to war, wasn't called, because the Armistice was signed before... so I didn't have to go.

Dodson: You were a little luckier than my uncle. He sailed for France on November 11, 1918.

Lane: Ha ha.. that was the day of the...

Dodson: ... the day of the Armistice...

Lane: That was the day of the Armistice, yeah.

[laughter]

Dodson: Guess he's told us since that there were three transports building their man on the Hudson River in New York. And they sailed down the river in the early morning of the 11th. When they got to New York city,

why, they heard all the celebrations on shore that the war is over.. two of the transports got orders to drop anchors and stop, and his got orders to proceed to France.

[laughter]

Ha ha ha... so he sailed to France.

Lane: ... well they got a ride... they got a ride... oh boy.

Dodson: Every once in a while you get some unusual happenings like that.

Lane: Yes you do, yeah.

Dodson: So he was a veteran arriving right after the war was over... ha ha ha... Do you remember how the news of the Armistice was received here in the valley?

Lane: Yes I remember. And I remember I got... at that time I was playing in the San Fernando Valley band and I was playing E flat tuba horn. And at that time I called myself a Big Blow Hard ...

[laughter] ... because it took quite a lot of wind to blow that.

[tape 1 side 1 ends]

Lane: Yeah, it seemed like nearly everybody in the town of Van Nuys got out on the sidewalk or on the main street anyway, they're walking out and shouting and singing and some of them had instruments. And someone told me that "Charlie, you better go back and get your

horn and make a little noise here." So I got my horn and proceeded to blow it, we had a very, we had a real celebration. We had something to celebrate, the war was over and peace was declared, you know. Yeah, I remember it was quite an event.

Dodson: Can you contrast or compare the way the news was received at the end of World War I and World War II in the valley? When Germany surrendered, or when Japan surrendered in World War II? Was there any more exuberance from one than the other, do you feel?

Lane: Well I noticed that more after World War I was over, than I did World War II although we know that World War II was many times greater for lost of lives or everything else than World War I. But it didn't seem to me that there was quite the response than there was after World War I was over.

Dodson: Do you think there was any difference in the attitude of the people toward World War I and World War II? That is, any greater feeling that you were performing a service in going to war in World War I than in World War II?

Lane: Well no, I don't... I don't think so. But I believe, the way I looked at it myself, that World War... we were so glad that World War I was over and of course World War II was supposed to be to fight the war to end all wars. And when it didn't I think there was a lot of people that were disappointed that they didn't accomplish that.

Dodson: I seem to remember that Mr. Roosevelt made the state-

ment at the outbreak of our participation in World War II that he'd like to hear more bands playing and that sort of thing. Do you think that the people somehow couldn't take it the same way in World War II as they did in World War I?

Lane: Yeah, that's it. That's my opinion, yeah.

Dodson: There was a little disillusionment maybe?

Lane: I think so, yeah. Yes, it seemed to me there was.

Dodson: Do you remember what you were doing when the news of Pearl Harbor arrived? How you received that?

Lane: Well, I can't remember it exactly... I've done so many different things... that was in 1941, wasn't it?

Dodson: Yes.

Lane: Uh hmm...

Dodson: It was Sunday morning, December the 7th.

Lane: Yes, yeah... well I know that uh, I guess all of us were in sort of in uh, a shock, I guess, to realize what was going on. And we were... I know in my family we were... kind of in a shock to hear that and of course we didn't know what the outcome would be, either.

Boyer: Were people afraid that possibly the Japanese might come as far as California? Since you live here?

Lane: Yes, they thought they might come right up off the California coast! which happened at one place. I think it was the... uh, the... submarine. I believe it was the submarine that fire some shots right along the coast of California, I think northern California.

Dodson: I think there was some shelling around the Santa Barbara area, as I recall. Is that right?

Lane: Yeah, it might have been up there. I know it was up north of here, yeah, uh hmm. That's right, but there wasn't any real damage done. No, I don't remember of any real damage but that did occur, yeah.

Dodson: The only thing I heard about here was the.. that presumed air raid that came over the city, that one plane, and most people think that that was one of our own planes. Do you recall that?

Lane: Yeah, yah, I do. People didn't know, you know, no.

Dodson: What were your impressions of that night?

Lane: Well, we were very uncertain, we weren't stirred up about it, really. We didn't know either, no.

Dodson: Did you have any anti-aircraft guns here in the valley?

Lane: Not that I know of, at that time, no.

Dodson: So the excitement was really over the hill, more in Los Angeles than here?

Lane: Yeah, yes, that's right, that's true, yeah, uh hmm.

No, at that time I don't remember that they had to have... I don't think they had time... They didn't have time, at that time, to be equipped for that, as yet, if I remember right.

Boyer: Were there blackouts?

Lane: Well yes, they did have blackouts for a while here, yes uh hmm. Every night for months, several months, yeah, uh hmm. Oh yeah...

Dodson: Did you know any of the Japanese residents of the valley who were put in these relocation camps at the time?

Lane: Yes. I knew quite a number of them that were farmers here that were really... American born Japanese. They were really Americans that were put in... and I thought that was a shame because they were put in concentration camps, too. And I didn't think that was right. And it's caused a lot of trouble, too, you know, it made it real bad.

Dodson: How did you feel about them from your contacts? Did you feel they were loyal American citizens whether they were of Japanese descent or not?

Lane: I think most of them, and I knew some of them personally, I think most of them were very loyal. And the reason that they were... that... something that... this act that they did, putting the Japanese-Americans in concentration camps wouldn't have a tendency to make them disloyal. And maybe some of them would that way, after being penned up, you know. The Japanese are very thrifty people and if they are not busy, they

are not happy. And they weren't happy in there. And they didn't think that they belong there but that's what resulted in... yeah.

Dodson: Did they own many farms here in the valley, or did they just work on other people's farms as tenant farmers or laborers?

Lane: Well there was a few of them that owned their own property, I know, but not too many. They rented, or they worked for others, or they worked sharecropping or something like that, yeah. But there was some that owned their own property, yeah.

Dodson: And can you tell us what happened to the property of those that owned it?

Lane: Now I don't know whether they were confiscated or not, I wouldn't know for sure. No, I really don't know. I couldn't answer that and say yes or no, really.

Dodson: Uh hmm. I'm not exactly sure of the answer myself but I think they were forced to sell, more or less on the spur of the moment, for anything they could get on it. That's my feeling on what happened, generally.

Lane: Uh hmm, yeah.

Dodson: So there was no resentment in the valley against the person of Japanese descent. They weren't considered responsible in any way for Pearl Harbor, if they were of Japanese descent?

Lane: Oh no, not at all. Not at all, no, everybody was in sympathy with them here. I knew a lot of them personally, yeah.

Dodson: I'm very glad to get that reaction, to find out just what the attitude was since most Japanese residents of this country did live here in California.

Lane: Oh yeah, they did, yeah, they were loyal.

Dodson: Had the relations with Japanese in California been good up to that time, in your opinion? Or particularly in southern California?

Lane: Yeah, very good... very good.

Dodson: Do you care to tell us anything else about the earthquakes that we've had in southern California? I think you've been through a number of them?

Lane: Well, yes, I've been through four or five here in the valley since 1910, but none of them compare to the San Francisco quake in 1906. None of them, no...

Dodson: I imagine you've felt the Long Beach quake and the Tehachapee quake?

Lane: Yeah, I've felt both of those, yeah.

Dodson: And what about the one in Santa Barbara?

Lane: Santa Barbara, too, there's three... yeah. And then one in 1971 that we had here, the last one in '71, yeah. I've been through four or five here in the

valley, yeah.

Dodson: The future may be interested in knowing what your reaction is after having experienced those. Are you afraid of them now or do you just take them in stride?

Lane: Well..

Dodson: Or what is your attitude?

Lane: Well... I tell people that I'm immune to earthquakes after being in the San Francisco earthquake, see?

[laughter]

I wasn't right in San Francisco when the earthquake occured, but I was up there shortly after. But I felt it just as much where I was living, in Los Altos, California, as they did in San Francisco. So I always tell 'em I'm immune to earthquakes.

Dodson: Ha ha ha... I see. Does your wife feel that way too?

Lane: I wouldn't know.

Mrs. Lane: I'm afraid not. ....?....

[laughter]

Dodson: You didn't live in California at the time we had any of these?

Mrs. Lane: Well I've been here about a little over two weeks, ha ha ha... ....?.... something new right now, all

the articles in the newspaper is all about earthquakes...?...

Dodson: Maybe it's a good thing that you hadn't come just two weeks before the Sylmar quake! Ha ha ha...

Mrs. Lane: I might've gone back to Georgia! Ha ha ha...

Boyer: ....?....

Dodson: No, it doesn't go that far north. No, I don't think that does.

Boyer: ...?...

Dodson: No I don't. At least I haven't heard that it did. I think it doesn't go much north than San Francisco, does it? I'm not exactly sure.

Lane: I don't think it goes further than that.

Dodson: That's my feeling. It runs out to the Pacific at that point?

Lane: Yeah, uh hmm. Yes, uh hmm.

Mrs. Lane: There was an article the other night, said that something, some fault run the whole length of California, now what would that be?

Dodson: I don't know, I just don't know... I was under the opinion that the San Andreas did end in San Francisco, or ran out into the ocean.

Lane: That's my opinion, too.

Dodson: And then it goes south and out into the Gulf of Mexico on the southern side.

Lane: That's about right, yeah.

Mrs. Lane: I believe this was another fault, I don't know that they called it a fault.. but something similar... that the ground is rising on the other side of Palm Springs there. And they don't know if it's...

Dodson: Oh yes, yes, that was in the paper.

Lane: Oh yeah, yes...

Dodson: Are you nervous about it yourself as you read about these things?

Mrs. Lane: Oh yes, sir. Yes sir. Ha ha ha...

Lane: It don't do you any good to be nervous, you can't get away from it, no.

[laughter]

Dodson: Of course all our interviews have stressed the idea that in this part of the valley the Sylmar quake wasn't felt very strongly. It apparently didn't do much damage. Now, in our college it didn't do any at all.

Lane: No, we didn't get any structural damage here either, no.

Dodson: Uh hmm.

Lane: It's here... five o'clock it was here. ...altogether...

Dodson: Did you have any dishes knocked out of the cupboard or that sort of thing?

Lane: No, really not. We had some dishes up here, some English cups and saucers and that ...?... and about 90% of them came down on the... and broke. But that was swinging out, you know, bakc and forth. ....?.... but I sat in the kitchen there, with the cupboard, with the doors... and didn't have any broken dishes at all, uh uh...

Dodson: Well that's been my impression, that the quake was not felt to any degree of severity this far south.

Lane: Oh no, no.

Dodson: It was in the town of San Fernando and the area of Sylmar...

Lane: Sylmar, yes.

Dodson: ... that it was really concentrated.

Lane: Yeah, yeah.

Dodson: Of course I live in the Crescenta Valley and we felt it very strongly up there.

Lane: We felt it here pretty good.

Dodson: We did have some buildings damaged so much that they were condemned then. But it, as I say, in this part of the valley, wasn't felt to any degree.

Lane: Most of the earthquakes occur in the morning, in the early mornings, did you notice? Some of them, like the one in Long Beach, occurred in the evening, but most of these others occurred in the morning.

Dodson: I didn't remember when most of them occured since this was the first... our Sylmar quake was the first one that I... since I've been here, that really amounted to much in our area.

Lane: Uh hmm. That was pretty early in the morning, around six o'clock.

Dodson: Yes, around six o'clock.

Mrs. Lane: Most people were asleep.

Lane: Yeah, yeah. That should wake them up.

Mrs. Lane: It woke me up!

[laughter]

What quake was this ...?... for? '71 was it? I know the ...?... swimming pool splashed right into their living room.

Lane: '71, yeah.

Dodson: Usually when we speak of the earthquake in this valley, it means the '71 quake. That was our particular quake.

Mrs. Lane: Yeah, right.

Dodson: As the other ones are Long Beach, Santa Barbara, or Tehachapee, or San Francisco.

Mrs. Lane: I believe this article said if you've come ...?... California and have unpacked your suitcase, you've gone through an earthquake.

Boyer: Ha ha ha...

Dodson: I believe it's true that we do have at least some very minor quakes practically everyday, but they are so small that the person.. the individual can't feel anything. The seismographs, I guess, can pick them up.

Lane: Yes, they certainly can.

Dodson: But this is an area of strong seismic activity, there's no question about it.

Lane: Oh.. yeah.

Mrs. Lane: That's what I have read recently... ha ha ha...

Dodson: Well, we gather then that you're not making any preparations for the next quake and you're not much worried about that?

Lane: No, I'm not really, come what may.

Dodson: I think the future may be interested in these reactions. I usually ask about this and everyone returns the same answer that you can't do anything about it anyway so they don't worry about it one way or the other.

Lane: Well, what can we do about it?

Mrs. Lane: The paper says that it isn't the quake itself that killed so many people, it's things falling apart, objects falling..

Lane: That's true.

Dodson: Yes. And the danger of interrupting gas lines and getting fires.

Lane: That's probably what caused so many fires in San Francisco.

Dodson: Yes, I think it's pretty well established that the fire did more damage than the quake.

Lane: Oh yeah, yeah, much more.

Dodson: Can you think of any other things related to the valley other than earthquakes that bothered you? You were here when the valley used to have floods, too, were you not?

Lane: Yes..

Dodson: Now, some people say that the floods have been a much greater problem than earthquakes in this valley.

Lane: I think it was in 1938 that we had one of the worst floods we had here. That was before they had the flood control. And there were about 200 homes that went down the Los Angeles River.. in 1938 I believe it was.

Dodson: Where were you living in that time? In what part of the valley?

Lane: I was living right here.

Dodson: Oh, then you were far enough away that you didn't suffer flood damage?

Lane: No, no, we didn't here. We had just surface damage, you might say. The Van Nuys Boulevard used to be pretty well flooded, got in to some of the stores before they got the flood control. And it was quite a bit of damage done in that respect, you know. But of course they rectified that by getting the flood control but that took quite a few years before they correct it. And they did that mostly after 1938, from then on..

Dodson: I see. So from recent years there hasn't been no real flood problem in the valley?

Lane: No. Not in the last 10 to 15 years, no. No big problem about that.

Dodson: I see. Can you tell us how you were affected by the Great Depression in 1929?

Lane: Well, I wasn't affected too much by it because I didn't have anything to lose.

[laughter]

Dodson: I see.. ha ha ha... Was your father still living at that time?

Lane: Let's see, that was what year?

Dodson: '29.

Lane: No, my father died in 1925.

Dodson: I just wondered if he still had his farm at that time.

Lane: Well, no.. no he didn't. I was living right here in 1929. I came here in 1925 and my father past away. I inherited this lot from him. So uh.. I've been here 52 years now.

Dodson: You've moved so much in your younger years that when you finally got here you've stayed put! Isn't that right?

Lane: Yeah, I've stayed right here.

Dodson: What sort of work were you doing at that time, in 1929?

Lane: In 1929 I was... I've done so many different works, I was in sales work quite a bit. I've been on milk routes and coffee routes. I had a route, coffee route, down in Long Beach and here, too. ....?.... Coffee, you know, just like the Jewel T [sp ?] delivered to the homes, you know.

Dodson: Do you recall what what effect the Depression had on your deliveries? On your business?

Lane: Well, it.. it slows it down, naturally, yeah. I was in sales work at that time, too, yeah, uh hmm.

Dodson: Was it slowed down enough to affect your income drastically, do you recall?

Lane: Yeah, quite a bit. We just barely... I think everybody was in the same boat, just barely made a living and that's all. And you had to work hard to do that.

Dodson: But you were apparently more fortunate than some people in that you remained employed throughout the period, is that right?

Lane: Yes. I worked for Adohr as a delivery milkman, I had a milk route for Adohr for three and a half years. Pretty ...?... because we worked about 14 hours a day. And I worked four months, one time, without a day off from those long days, didn't have much sleep... didn't have much sleep.

Dodson: How did wages run at that time? Do you recall?

Lane: Well, wages... Adohr paid real well for the time, but it only amounted to about 38¢ an hour. When you consider the amount of hours we put in... we got $150.00 a month, we got $5 a day for every day and we worked for it every day, too, yeah. But there wasn't... some weren't too furtunate. I remember some friends of mine that were doing carpenter work at that time and carpenters.. there weren't... only about half of them working. And then they were getting only.. maybe 2 or 3 dollars day. Two and a half to three dollars a day was good and incidentally, some contractors just took advantage of that.

Dodson: And how did they do that, then? By just deliberately

paying those very low wages? Because at that time...

Lane: Low wages, yes.

Dodson: ... no demand for the men, so that time they had to take those wages?

Lane: That's right, that's right.

Dodson: Of course I imagine there wasn't too much building at that time either, was there?

Lane: Not too much, no. No, people didn't have the money to build.

Dodson: We never had any bread lines or anything like that in the valley during the Depression, did we?

Lane: No. I don't remember or having any bread lines here. No, it never got that serious.

Dodson: Do you remember any of the experiences of your neighbors? Whether they lost their houses or anything of that kind?

Lane: No, I don't know of any... [coughing]

[tape stopped]

Dodson: Can you tell us how the appearance of the valley has changed since you've been here?

Lane: Well, the most radical change that I see, speaking of, say, from 1910 until now, is the population. The increase of the growth of the valley, the population,

the buildings... and some skyscrapers and many apartment houses and uh, buildings... This is what my father said, that when he saw this valley he said that this valley is going to be thickly populated some day because it was adjacent to the Los Angeles and the Harbor. And it was such a beautiful valley that people would flock here and that some day it would be very thickly populated and you see that today. And then the big contrast between 1910 and 1977.

Dodson: Were there any other houses close to your farm house in 1910? When you came here? Or were there lots of open spaces?

Lane: Well, it was mostly open spaces here, especially the the first year. Of course 1910 is when we came here. In 1911 the... they built 10... in the town site here which was uh, a mile square, called the Van Nuys town site, they built 10 homes for... more or less for advertising, of course they had them for sale. And an inducement for people to build, why, my father got a reduction from $100 an acre... he got his ranch reduced in price, it was at that time, $400 an acre. And he got it $300 an acre for building an atrium[?] house almost immediately after he he started into... after he bought it, he started to make preparations to build, and in a few months we had the atrium [?] house built. So it... about $1000.00 off of the original price, for.. building, and that was to encourage others to come and build.

Dodson: I know a little later, we used to hear about the red cars bringing out parties that the real estate agents had organized and all of that, offering free lunches

and all that, to sell lots in the valley. Do you remember that sort of thing?

Lane: Yes, I well remember it and I participated in a good many of those times, too. Because I belonged to the San Fernando Valley Band, although we didn't get paid for any of our playing, we had a chance to get a free ride with our instruments and everything. And they had barbecues in different parts of the valley, and they would sell the surrounding area there. And they have, usually, a barbecue dinner in the.. at noon, and one at about 6 o'clock in the evening. And that was one of the ways they.. the valley first started, the real estate man would go out and sell a lot of property that way. It was very interesting, that time.

Dodson: Was the approach rather a high pressure one? As they try to convince these people that the valley was going to amount to something?

Lane: Oh yes, they did. Yes they did, but you might say we have some.. perhaps a high pressure salesman at that time, they were enthusiastic and want to make the sale, naturally.

Dodson: What happened to your farm? Was it subdivided then?

Lane: Not at that time. When we sold it, my father sold it in 19... 1920. And the people that bought it lived there for about 25 years, and then when they sold it, the whole 10 acres became a tract. And they made a tract out of it... tract houses. And it is now about... oh, I'd say forty or fifty homes on that ten acre tract that we had.

Dodson: Could you tell us what streets surround that now?

Lane: Yes. That was on Kester Avenue, and we had about 325 feet on Kester Avenue. And then, we went... from Kester Avenue to what is now Noble, we had about 1300... I believe it was 1250 or 1300, about 1300 feet. And it was 40 acres and it was sliced up into a narrow 10 acre tracts of about 350 feet by 1300. So there was a... it was bounded, you might say, on what's now Kester Avenue and Friar Street, down to Noble, and from Noble up to... well, there wasn't any... on Kester Avenue there was quite a space between Friar Street and Sylvan Street. And the boundaries were quite a ways from it there, Calvert Street would be the boundary. It was several acres between our property.

Dodson: Do you have any idea what your father sold the farm for?

Lane: Yes, a rather ridiculous price when you think about it now. He sold it for $14,000. And it consisted of 10 acres, an eight room house, two-story barn, four poultry houses, 20 x 100 ... they had a ...?... house, it had a tank house, and then we had chicken houses there, we had a dairy. In the barn we had 200... we had a two-story barn... we could store hay, and we had cows. And we milked cows in the barn, we had a place for them. And we had corrals there. So we had the 10 acres plus all the improvements, sold at that time for $14,000 in 1920.

Dodson: How did your father feel about that? Did he feel that he got a good price for it? Was he satisfied?

Lane: Yeah, he was satisfied with it at that time. It came to be about the prevailing price.

Dodson: I see. Of course that's a little hard to imagine now what that land would be worth at the present time.

Lane: Well yes, it would probably be worth... well, several million dollars now with the improvements that are on it, several millions... I don't know just how much at today's prices according to the way real estate is now.

Dodson: Looking back on it, do you feel a sense of regret that he didn't hold on to it and you inherit it?

Lane: Well, in a way it would have been nice because it was really wonderful to live on it at that time. It was a beautiful place and it was fine living at that time because there wasn't the pressures that are now. You didn't have to worry about not locking your doors, why, you didn't have anything stolen or anything... anyone to molest or anything. It's just... you were perfectly safe, night or day.

Dodson: What did you do, then, after the farm was sold?

Lane: Well, after the farm was sold I did several different things. I worked for the Standard Oil Company for a while, I worked in the grocery stores for a while and then I was doing... I learned the carpenter trade from my father and I... there's quite a bit of carpenter work there for quite a number of years, a good many years. And then I was doing sales work, too. I was never in the real estate business but I was in the

insurance business for seven years. So I had quite a variety of different occupations, a great variety, you might say, in that...

[tape 1 side 2 ends]

Dodson: Now I believe you said something a moment ago in regard to the fact that the valley was safer or something of the kind, in those days, didn't you? You see a great change there?

Lane: Oh, a great change there because we never had any violence or anything stolen or anything like that. You didn't have to worry about that in those days.

Dodson: When do you think the change began to take place?

Lane: Well, I think the change started to take place right after World War I, things begin to be different than they way they were before. They weren't quite so calm... People getting home from the war, there were more or less unrest and more or less crime starting in at that time, according to my recollections... I believe right after... or shortly after World War I.

Dodson: You feel the situation then, was really worsened by the war? Would that be true of World War II as well?

Lane: Yes, definitely. After World War II, it started to be... I would say, quite a bit worse than after World War I, it seemed to me, uh hmm.

Dodson: Do you personally feel that it's unsafe to leave

your house at night, or do you leave it freely?

Lane: No, I think it's very unsafe at night at any time here, in these days.

Dodson: I see. What do you think about changes in fashions as you've seen them here in the valley? Do you think the ones that they... the clothes that they wear now are more sensible than in your day, or the other way around?

Lane: Well I think the other way around. Of course there wasn't so.. uh, fashions... of course fashions have changed but I don't think fashion have changed for the better. I think that... personally, I don't approve of some of the fashions that they have now. I like the times gone by fashions better than I do the modern fashions.

Dodson: Now that would be.. probably going back before World War I. I imagine you didn't care for the '20s with the flapper type of thing?

Lane: No, I didn't like that very well.. ha ha ha...

Dodson: To me that was one of the ugliest ...?...

Lane: Uh hmm, that's right.

Dodson: But if we went back to about 1910, you felt that those were more pleasing, say, than what we're getting now?

Lane: They were to me, yes, very much so.

Dodson: Do you think that at the present time they're a bit

on the scandalous side?

Lane: I think so, yes, I do.

Dodson: Paula, do you care to comment on that? Ha ha ha...

Boyer: No. Ha ha ha...

[laughter]

Dodson: Well Paula's not scandalous, I think. How about fads as you've seen them develop? Are there more now of the sorts of eratic behavior than in the '20s?

Lane: Oh yes. We didn't have very many fads at that time. I remember that fads started... I don't exactly remember what time but I would say that fads really started after the second world war. More pronounced at that time.

Dodson: You didn't have anything like a contest to see how many live goldfish a student can swallow? Or how many people could go into a telephone booth at one time, or that sort of thing?

Lane: No, I don't recollect anything like that at that time... to my knowledge.

Dodson: Oh, I see. I didn't know whether in 1910 they were doing that sort of thing or some particular thing they were doing that were sort of on the absurd side or not.

Lane: Well, of course I wasn't going to school at that time.

Maybe some of the high school and college students were doing something like that, but I was past that age.

Dodson: I see, ha ha ha... How about the subject of morality in general? Do you think there's been a decline there, or is it about the same in your opinion?

Lane: Well there's been a great decline there because moral... moral people is a much better and higher level than it is now. Much, much higher then...

Dodson: Was there any use of narcotics that you know of? Any general use, say in 1910?

Lane: No, not in those days. Of course there was.. people were smoking and drinking liquor in those days but as far as.. to my knowledge there wasn't very much in the way of narcotics or drug as used at that time.

Dodson: Was there much drunkenness, would you say?

Lane: Well, no, not so much.. it wasn't pronounced. Of course we have a lot more people now, maybe it's more pronounced on that account, but I don't believe there was near as much as it is now in proportion to the population.

Dodson: Do you remember the Prohibition days in the valley? Was there much unofficial making of wine and that sort of thing, would you say?

Lane: Yes, there was quite a bit of it. They'd make wine and make beer, you know, and some would make whiskey. And there was quite a bit of damage done then because

on account of the... the whiskey seemed to be the worst because I know personally, one young man that went blind from the use of the whiskey made during poor Prohibition time. Very bad, a bad situation we had then.

Dodson: Did you feel that that promoted organized crime in the valley? Or did any such thing as organized crime exist?

Lane: Well, to a certain extent there was a lot of, even in here in the valley, there was a lot of bootlegging going on. In fact, that's the only way that you.. that a person could get liquor was through a source of bootleggers, in those... in that time.

Dodson: Would you say then that most people were glad when the Prohibition amendment was repealed?

Lane: I think most people were, and I think it was a good thing. I think it was much better that way, much better than Prohibition. Prohibition evidently didn't work out as it was expected it would.

Dodson: Now, you may have noticed that Senator Cranston has just introduced a bill in Congress to... well in effect, not exactly legalize marijuana but cut down greatly on the possible fine on the use of marijuana. How do you feel about that?

Lane: Well I, personally, I feel that's a mistake. I don't believe in the use of it at all and I don't think it should be encouraged... because that's encouraging it.

Dodson: Since we're talking about those problems, one of the

great things that the people in the valley, especially those with children, are interested in the present time is this matter of bussing children to other parts of the city. How do you feel about that?

Lane: Well I don't approve of this busing at all. I know it but I don't know too much about it. But what I've known about it and what I've seen and heard.. why, I don't agree with them on the bussing at all.

Dodson: Did you have any children of your own?

Lane: Yes we had one but we didn't have the problem because we lived in the city of Van Nuys here. And during his lifetime he went to the... the... the elementary school here, and we didn't have that problem of bussing. We took him, or sometimes he walked, or sometimes we would take him with a car because it was only a few blocks from his home here to the school.

Dodson: How... Can you imagine how you might feel if he were here now and ten years old, and was to be bussed. Would you be in favor of it, or would you permit it, or how would you feel?

Lane: Well, if that occured at this time I wouldn't be in favor of it. And I wouldn't... I would feel like... I would take it upon myself to see that he got to school and back again myself, personally, by taking him there in the car. Yeah.

Dodson: Paula, do you have any questions to ask?

Boyer: No, not at this time.

Dodson: What would you regard as the most important event in the history of the valley since you've lived here?

Lane: Well that's kind of a hard question... ha ha ha... I don't know if I can answer that or not. The most important event? , [Pause] Just what do you mean in that...?... Err... capacity or area?

Boyer: Oh, he means anything, naturally. Anything that happened in the valley, that you think is important to the valley.

Lane: Well, one of the most important things that happened in the valley was when they brought the aqueduct water to the valley here.

Dodson: I think most people have mentioned that to us, as in their opinion, the most important single thing was the bringing in of the water.

Lane: Beacause that's what really made the valley grow, was when they brought the water in. And then it started it into growing, pretty fast from then on.

Dodson: I know there's some agitation at the time, for the valley to secede from the city of Los Angeles. How do you feel about that, setting the valley as a separate city?

Lane: I've heard of that but I don't agree with them on that. I think we're better off having it just as we are. Because I don't think, if we separated, we would do near as well. That's my opinion, I may be wrong about that.

Dodson: I've asked several people that we've interviewed about their opinion on that, they all say the same thing. Not one has favored that.

Lane: No, no.

Dodson: But as you perhaps know, Senator Robbins [sp ?] is one of those who in the past has favored that particular thing.

Lane: Yeah. I wouldn't be in favor of it at all.

Dodson: Is there anything in valley history that you regard as especially unfortunate, any happenings as you think about it? Now other perhaps on things other than earthquakes and floods. I'm refering to political events or things along that line.

Lane: Hhmm. Well there's one thing along with the... I think in some respect the valley has.. in the last few years, has been growing a little bit too fast and that they have neglected keeping it.. the beauty of the valley like it used to be in the days gone by. Because now they've been improving and building so fast that they have forgotten a lot of things that they could have done to make the valley look more beautiful. They were increasing in the building, in the growth of the valley.

Dodson: In other words, there just wasn't the care for the environment...

Lane: Yeah.

Dodson: .. that you hear about at the present time.

Lane: That's right, yeah, uh hmm. That's my opinion.

Dodson: Do you know of any important historical sites in the valley that you think we should know about? As places of importance as connected to the history of the valley that's still standing. We know of some of the adobes and things like that, we wondered if you could think of more things... as you recall them.

Lane: No, I really can't think of anything of importance along that line.. really.

Dodson: Do you know of any of the descendents of any of the pioneer families that are still around? Descendants of the Van Nuys family, or the Whitsett family?

Lane: Uh..

Dodson: Any of those that are connected with the area further north, like the McClays [sp ?] or the Porters [sp ?]

Lane: No, I really don't. I'm not too familiar with the families. I'm personally not acquainted with any of them, really not.

Boyer: ...?... Van Nuys ....?.... is there?

Dodson: I'm not sure.

Boyer: I don't think there's any Van Nuys left.

Dodson: Some people think that the radio commentator Larry Van Nuys is a member of the Van Nuys family. I don't think that he was. Do you know anything about

that?

Lane: I wouldn't know for sure. I couldn't answer truthfully on that one, no.

Dodson: I see. Do you know of any other people who have lived here a long time that we might interview, or should interview?

Lane: Yeah, I have one friend that I met in the store the other day. I don't exactly know if you could look it up in the phone directory, or his phone number is, but the name is Beatty [sp ?], Mr. Beatty.

Dodson: How would you spell that?

Lane: I don't know just how exactly he does spell it, he was uh... in days gone by he used to sell the feed for some of the big feed companies here. He'd sell to the dairies and the poultrymen, it's food, you know... it's grains and different hays and different foods. As a salesman, he wouldn't deliver it but he was a salesman. Then, the delivery man, the truck man, would deliver the grains and the feed and so forth. And he's been here in the valley a long time. I was talking to him the other day, he's 93 years old. And he's been in the valley.. I don't think quite as long as I have, but a good many years anyway. I've known him for oh, I'd say 35 or 40 years. And he might be a very good one to interview. He's quite active yet. He walks around with a cane now to steady himself a bit. He says he walks a mile a day, he's quite active.

Dodson: I think he's getting on all right if he walks a mile

a day.

Lane: By all means.. 93 years old.

Dodson: Do you know his street address or telephone number?

Lane: No, I really don't. I never call him up, I just never call him up. I just happened to see him, you know, once in a while. I knew him quite well. We used to buy from him, when we had our ranch down here for the food.. feed we had. And the people that bought from us, when my dad sold it, he was there still for quite a while.. many years after that. But I really don't know what his phone number is, or exactly where he lives.

Boyer: Do you know his first name?

Lane: No I don't. See, you might have to look in the phone book and inquire Beatty [sp ?]. I'll tell you what.. now, his son has been working, I don't know whether he has an interest in it or not, but he has two sons that worked in the... the mortuary down here, it's called... let's see what's that mortuary called now? I can't think of that name now.... Praiswater Mortuary, have you heard of Praiswater Mortuary? The one in Van Nuys? Well, you might want to call them up and this too... his son that worked there. And you can get the phone number and address from them. And you might contact him, he might give you a lot of information.

Dodson: That's a very good lead for us.

Lane: Yeah.

Dodson: Paula, do you have any other questions you'd like to ask?

Boyer: No, just if Mr. Lane have any other anecdotes or anything, or any story you'd like to record?

Dodson: Yes, you may think of something that we haven't asked about at all that you'd think the future ought to know about.

Lane: Well, I can't think of it at the present time. I've been looking over the outlines that you had here. No, I can't think of anything special that we haven't mentioned, really.

Dodson: Well then, we certainly appreciate the time you've given us and...

Lane: Glad to give it.

Dodson: .. the recollections that we've obtained from you. I'm sure that the future will find it as interesting to listen to as we have this evening. So thank you very much.

Lane: You're very welcome. I'm just pleased to be of service.

Dodson: And we appreciate the cooperation, I assure you. Thank you.

You have been listening to an interview with Mr. Charles Lane. The interview was conducted by Miss Paula Boyer, field deputy to Dr. Dodson, and by Dr. James L. Dodson, curator of the Los Angeles

Valley College Historical Museum. The date is February 4, 1977.